REMARKS

This Amendment After Final Rejection is submitted in response to the outstanding final Office Action, dated April 5, 2005. Claims 1 through 20 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. In this response, applicant proposes to amend claims 1, 7, and 13. No additional fee is due.

This amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116 and should be entered. The Amendment places all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1 through 20, in a form that is believed allowable, and, in any event, in a better form for appeal. It is believed that examination of the pending claims as amended, which are consistent with the previous record herein, will not place any substantial burden on the Examiner. In any case, an RCE is being submitted herewith and thus the claim amendments should be entered.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-15, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu et al. (United States Patent Publication Number 2003/0130855) in view Yang et al. (United States Patent Number 6,801,141). The Examiner indicated that claims 5-6, 11-12, 16, and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 13

Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu et al. in view Yang et al. In particular, the Examiner acknowledges that Babu does not disclose a grammar based lossless data compression scheme and does not disclose a lexicographic and/or Foata normal form, but asserts that both forms call for ordering/sorting the input string and, hence, can be processed in the compression scheme of Babu.

Applicant notes that Babu is directed to a method for generating a data model for compressing a *data table* (see, Abstract). Applicant notes that Babu does not disclose or suggest utilizing input strings that have symbols belonging to a partially commutative alphabet, and the methods disclosed by Babu do not support input strings that have symbols belonging to a partially commutative alphabet. The independent claims of the present invention have been amended to require that the *input string has symbols belonging to a partially commutative alphabet.* Support

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for this amendment can be found on page 4, line 30, to page 15, line 24, of the originally filed specification.

Thus, Babu et al. and Yang et al., alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest generating a lexicographic normal form from said input string, using only a single pass over said input string, wherein said input string has symbols belonging to a partially commutative alphabet, as required by independent claim 1, as amended, do not disclose or suggest generating a Foata normal form from said input string, wherein said input string has symbols belonging to a partially commutative alphabet, as required by independent claim 7, as amended, and do not disclose or suggest generating a normal form from said input string, using only a single pass over said input string, wherein said input string has symbols belonging to a partially commutative alphabet, as required by independent claim 13, as amended.

Dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-20

Dependent claims 2-4, 8-10, and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu et al. in view Yang et al.

Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-20 are dependent on claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Babu et al. and Yang et al. (alone or in any combination) because of their dependency from amended independent claims 1, 7, and 13 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim. The Examiner has already indicated that claims 5-6, 11-12, 16, and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1 through 20, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.
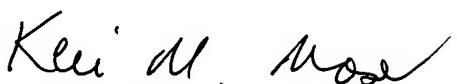
The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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